

Doctor who helped treat JFK says he wrote book to tell truth

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A doctor who helped treat President John F. Kennedy after he was shot in Dallas and who believes the government has lied about the assassination said yesterday that he broke his silence by writing a book because he believes the American people deserve to know the truth.

Dr. Charles A. Crenshaw was a resident on duty at Parkland Memorial Hospital when Kennedy was brought into the emergency room on Nov. 22, 1963.

At a news conference in Louisville yesterday, Crenshaw — who, at 60, is chairman emeritus of the Department of Surgery at John Peter Smith Hospital in Fort Worth and who last year co-authored the book "JFK: Conspiracy of Silence" — said, "I think there were multiple gunmen" and that Kennedy was shot from the front, not by two bullets from behind, as the government has contended.

Crenshaw, whose involvement in Kennedy's treatment was to put an intravenous tube in the president's leg, said he has never believed that Lee Harvey Oswald was solely re-

sponsible for Kennedy's assassination. But he said he kept silent for so many years because, naively, "I thought the investigation would be the best the country could do" and because he wanted to protect his career advancement.

Four Parkland physicians who played bigger roles in trying to save Kennedy's life — including Dr. Malcolm Perry, who performed a tracheotomy to try to help the president breathe — spoke out publicly in the Journal of the American Medical Association last year after Crenshaw's book was published to say "that they believe Crenshaw is wrong."



Crenshaw

One, surgeon Charles Baxter, says in the article that "his claims are ridiculous. The only motive I can see is a desire for personal recognition and monetary gain."

At the news conference yesterday, held a few hours before Crenshaw was to speak at the annual meeting of the Jewish Hospital medical staff, Crenshaw refused to say whether he thinks the four Parkland doctors are lying.

But Crenshaw said Americans should believe his contentions because he has a photograph of Ken-

nedy's head, which he says purportedly was taken during the autopsy but which does not show the baseball-sized wound at the back of Kennedy's head that Crenshaw says he and many other doctors and nurses at Parkland observed.

Crenshaw also talked about how the killing taught hospitals to be much better prepared for an emergency during a presidential visit.

When Kennedy was brought to Parkland, Crenshaw said, "no one knew he was coming until he pulled into the driveway," and the doctors had to treat him knowing nothing about his medical history. As a result, improvements in planning were made almost immediately. Crenshaw said that when President Gerald Ford came to Fort Worth in the 1980s, the hospital where Crenshaw worked was designated to treat Ford if necessary and was given extensive information on his medical history.

In 1963, when Kennedy was killed, emergency medicine was essentially in "the stone age" compared to the sophisticated technology and communications systems in use now, Crenshaw said. But he added that Kennedy was so gravely wounded that he does not believe even today's doctors could have saved him.